
**Urban District Council of
CHESHUNT**

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

including the Report of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

1944

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Cheshunt*

Gentlemen,

I beg to present my annual report, together with that of the Sanitary Inspector, for the year 1944 upon the health and sanitary circumstances of the district.

The Ministry of Health again direct that this shall be an interim report.

In the sixth year of the war the health of Cheshunt continues to be good.

Vital statistics for Cheshunt recorded in detail elsewhere in the report continue to be satisfactory.

The birth rate is slightly lower than in 1943. The higher death rate is related to deaths from violence but continues to remain low. The infant mortality rate is 35 per thousand live births compared to 46 per thousand live births for the whole of England and Wales.

I wish to record my thanks to the Sanitary Inspector for his co-operation throughout the year and to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their sympathetic help.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

BRIAN RUSSELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Officers of the Urban District Council of Cheshunt

Medical Officer of Health (part-time) :

BRIAN RUSSELL, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector, Superintendant of the Ambulance and
Refuse Collection Services, Inspector under the Petroleum Acts :

C. WILSON, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (1.3.4.)

Additional Sanitary Inspector :

J. B. JACKSON, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (2.3.)
(on Military Service)

J. A. SHILLITO, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. (1.3.)

1. Sanitary Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute.
 2. Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board for Sanitary Inspectors.
 3. Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate, Royal Sanitary Institute
 4. Certificate in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works, Royal Sanitary Institute.
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Statistics

Area—The area of Cheshunt is 8,480 acres.

Population—18,700 (Register General's estimate).

	1943	1944
Number of inhabited houses		
on the rate books 	5,475	5,472
Rateable value 		£123,118
Sum represented by penny rate ...	...	£496

VITAL STATISTICS

Birth rate per 1,000 of the population	20.44	19.95
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) 	20.6	23.55
Death rate per 1,000 of the population	10.97	11.18
Deaths from puerperal causes—		
Deaths from puerperal and post- abortive sepsis 	nil	nil
Deaths from other maternal causes	nil	1
Death rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) 	nil	2.62
Death rates of infants under 1 year of age—		
All infants per 1,000 live births ...	34.21	35.00
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legiti- mate live births 	32.52	33.24
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegi- timate live births 	99.99	83.33

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	29	19
Deaths from Heart Disease (all ages)	36	46
Deaths from Measles (all ages) ...	nil	nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	nil	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	2	2
Deaths from suicide	1	1
Deaths from other violent causes ...	3	14
Deaths from road traffic accidents ...	2	0

Laboratory Facilities.

Throat swabs are sent for examination to Enfield U.D.C. Public Health Department or to the E.M.S. Laboratory at the Hertford County Hospital.

Other specimens for examination are sent to the E.M.S. Laboratory at Hertford County Hospital.

Ambulance Facilities.

The same arrangements exist as during last year. Valuable assistance was received from the Volunteer Car Pool who conveyed 47 sitting cases during the year.

Nursing in the Home.

Details of the work done by the District Nurses are given in the following table:—

	Cases	Visits
Midwifery (without doctor) ...	72	1,346
Maternity (with doctor)	81	1,479
Ante-natal		689
General Nursing	216	4,688
Casual		246
Infant Health		4,208
Tuberculosis	4	63
Boarded-out children	8	89
Parents		153
Attendance at Clinics		216
Attendance at Schools (heads, etc.)		152

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The following Clinics are held at the Infant Welfare Centre, Waltham Cross:—

Child Welfare Clinic—Wednesday afternoon.

Ante-Natal Clinic—Wednesday morning.

Dental Clinics—Tuesday and Friday.

Ophthalmic Clinic—Third Friday afternoon in the month.

Tuberculosis Dispensary—Thursday morning.

B.R.C.S. Orthopædic and Massage Clinic—Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings.

The following statement gives an indication of the extensive work carried on at the Centre:—

Number of Child Welfare Clinics	...	52
„ „ children on the books	...	437
„ „ attendances	... ..	2,754
„ „ children for dental treatment (under school age)	... ..	27
„ „ nursing mothers for dental treatment	... ..	8
„ „ deaths among children	...	1
„ referred for orthopædic treatment	...	11
„ immunised against diphtheria	... ..	152

I wish to record my thanks to Dr. Ormstein for her great help in the immunisation of children under 5.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

Number of Clinics	...	...	...	52
„ „ expectant mothers	...	...	...	299
„ „ attendances	...	...	...	1,384
„ „ post-natal attendances	...	...	...	23
„ „ dental treatments	...	...	...	20
„ „ deaths	...	...	...	nil

War-time Day Nurseries.

War-time day nurseries under the control of the Herts County Council are held in Waltham Cross at Greenfield House and 157 High Street, and in Cheshunt at College Road.

The unit at Waltham Cross was opened in February 1942 and extended during 1943 and provides accommodation for 90 children (50 0-2 years, 40 2-5 years.)

The College Road Nursery was opened in October 1943 and this unit provides accommodation for 50 children (22 0-2 years, 28 2-5 years).

Both nurseries are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Routine medical inspections and immunisation of children are carried out periodically by Dr. Karpati of the County Medical Staff.

Hospitals. No Change.

Mortuary.

During the year 11 bodies were received into the Mortuary and 3 post-mortem examinations were made.

During May the Mortuary was transferred from the building at the rear of the Manor House to an adapted building at the Cheshunt cemetery, as a temporary measure.

Scabies.

The Cleansing Station, Waltham Cross was used for the treatment of Scabies cases. During the year 192 cases were treated compared with 164 during 1943 and 98 for 1942.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

With the exception of a few isolated cottages and out-lying farms the whole of the district is within the area of supply of the Metropolitan Water Board.

The supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.

One sample of water was taken during the year from Bulls Cross Farm which is served by pipe supply from a deep well.

The sample was reported upon as satisfactory for human consumption.

Drainage and Sewerage. No Change.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year numbered 1,836 and details as to the nature of these inspections are given in the tables which follow. 256 complaints relating to a variety of matters were received and investigated.

SUMMARY.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected for Housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	267
Number of dwelling-houses inspected for other than Housing defects	76
Number of premises other than houses inspected	169
Premises re-inspected (including housing) ...	481
Visits to works in progress (including housing)...	104
Miscellaneous visits	739
	<hr/>
	1,836
	<hr/>
	Seven

Included in the above table are the following classified visits :—

Visits to premises where food is prepared or exposed for sale .	...	...	...	134
Visits to bakehouses	...	...	...	18
Visits to fish fryers' premises	...	...	...	3
Visits to schools	...	...	...	35
Visits to tents, vans and sheds	...	...	...	88
Visits to council house applicants	...	...	...	34
Drains tested	...	...	...	39
Inspections of stables and piggeries	...	...	...	14
Inspections of urinals and public conveniences	...	...	...	nil
Visits under Petroleum Acts	...	...	...	32
Visit re collection and disposal of refuse and salvage	...	...	...	116
Visits re ambulance service...	...	...	...	12

NOTICES SERVED.

Informal Notices (written)	...	...	...	131
Statutory Notices under Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936, to abate nuisance	...	...	...	2
Statutory Notices under Section 287, Public Health Act, 1936, to enter premises	...	...	...	2

Inspection of Factories for purposes of provisions as to health.

Number of inspections of factories	...	...	...	14
Inspections of Outworkers' premises	...	...	...	5

There were no written notices served, prosecutions instituted or matters referred to H.M. Inspector.

Schools.

During the year work was carried out at Dewhurst, St. Mary's, and College Road schools to improve facilities for the washing, drying and storing of cups and beakers for school milk.

Swimming Bath.

Two samples of water were taken from Cheshunt swimming bath during July. Both samples were reported upon as satisfactory.

Caravans.

Proceedings were instituted in respect of the occupation of land off Sidney Road, Waltham Cross by moveable dwellings in contravention of the Hertfordshire County Council Act, 1935. The cases were dismissed by the Court of Summary Jurisdiction and an appeal by the Council had not been determined by the end of the year.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Disinfestations are carried out by steam disinfection of bedding and clothing, by the use of contact insecticides and by fumigation with "Thermatox."

The number of disinfestations carried out during the year was 15.

Public Cleansing.

A fortnightly collection of house refuse was maintained during the year. Disposal is effected by controlled tipping in a disused gravel pit.

There was a further fall in the amount of salvage recovered as compared with the previous year.

During 1944 the Council held a Book Recovery

and Salvage Drive and the total number of books collected was 85,565, of which 14,267 were allocated to the forces, 1,256 for "blitzed" libraries and 7,042 for salvage.

In August the Council were relieved of the responsibility of ensuring a separate collection of waste rubber and the direction given to the Council in 1941 was withdrawn.

Details of salvage sales during the year, together with the figures for 1943 for purposes of comparison, were as follows:—

		1943 (to 31st December)			1944		
		Weight.	Value.		Weight.	Value.	
		T. Cwts.	£ s. d.		T. Cwts.	£ s. d.	
Paper...	...	162 0½	1072 13 8		141 0½	923 17 10	
Pig Food	...	168 12	208 2 6		156 0	156 0 0	
Serap Iron	...	20 2	33 1 0		2 15½	5 11 6	
Light Metal	...	8½	4 19 0		8½	2 19 0	
Rags	...	2 11	54 8 0		3 10¼	80 9 3	
Bottles and Jars	...	14 9½	106 7 8		12 1½	73 3 9	
Bones...	...	2 9½	11 17 9		2 2	9 16 11	
Cullet...	...	1 18	2 17 0		1 7	1 14 0	
Rubber	...	9 6½	13 6 3		2 10	6 5 0	
Razor Blades	...	¼	1 13 0		—	—	
Gunny	...	4 4½	16 11 0		5 2½	89 0 0	
Boots...	...	15	4 10 0		3 0	18 0 0	
		<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>	
		386 17¼	1540 6 10		329 17¾	1366 17 3	
		<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>	

The costs of collection and disposal for the year ended March, 1944, together with the figures for 1943 are as follows:—

		1943	1944
		(per 1,000 of the population)	
Collection	...	£116	£109
Disposal	...	£39	£47

House Flies.

Following investigations into the problem of house fly breeding grounds carried out in 1943, an experimental manure stack embodying the principles of the Baber Fly Trap was constructed at one of the large nurseries in the district.

The use of the Baber Fly Trap is likely to be most effective in small units, as unless carefully and compactly stacked, the trap cannot prove fully effective, but the care involved in stacking and unstacking the manure proves difficult from the labour point of view under war-time conditions.

For this reason the trap had to be constructed in such a way as to allow a motor vehicle to be drawn onto a platform for loading and unloading, but as a result of observations it was considered to be advisable to split up the portions used for stacking manure into small units and this was done by the provision of dwarf brick walls.

In this form the trap was effective and considerable numbers of larvæ were destroyed in the in the channel, but the free sloping border of the manure stack enabled some larvæ to develop to mature flies within the trap and thus escape by flight.

The care and maintenance required for its effective operation is likely to discourage its widespread adoption, unless growers appreciate the value of the liquor escaping from the stack which would otherwise percolate into the ground and be lost.

The introduction of new insecticides such as DDT and Benzyl Hexachloride is opening a new field of investigation into the problem of control of fly breeding and these possibilities are being investigated,

with the aid of the Entomological Department of the Ministry of Health.

Rats & Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

Complaints of minor infestations were investigated and dealt with by the Rodent Control Officer of the County Council.

The Council's refuse tip is systematically baited by the County Council staff under contract.

Housing.

There was no statutory action taken during the year.

One certificate as to the state of repair of a dwelling-house was issued under the Rent Restriction Acts during the year.

Housing Statistics.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) 267
2. (b) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected or recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... Nil

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... 39

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) *Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 4

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) by Owners 4

(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners Nil

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

There are 16 cow keepers on the register. Forty-five visits to cowsheds and twenty-eight to dairies were made during the year, and three inspections were made of milk vehicles.

Thirteen samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, all of which were reported upon as satisfactory. Twenty-two samples were submitted by the County Council for bacteriological examination and two of these were reported upon as unsatisfactory. Inspections were made of the premises of the producers from which the unsatisfactory samples were obtained and advice was given with a view to obtaining an improvement in the quality of the milk.

An empty bottle from a retailer was submitted for bacteriological examination after cleansing. The Laboratory report showed that the bottle was efficiently cleansed.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936-38.

Licences were granted during the year as follows :—

Tuberculin Tested—Retailing Licence	...	1	
Tuberculin Tested—Supplementary Licence	...	2	
Accredited—	Supplementary Licence	...	1
Pasteurised—	Dealer's Retailing Licence	...	2
Pasteurised—	Supplementary Licence	...	2

Meat and other Foods.

During the year 134 visits were made to shops and premises (other than slaughter-houses) where food is prepared or exposed for sale and the following food-stuffs were surrendered as unsound and unfit for human consumption:—

Goteborg sausage	30 tons	Luncheon meat...	41 tins
Tomatoes	... 3 „	Chopped ham	... 23 „
Potatoes	... 2 cwt.	Sausage meat	... 2 „
Cheese	...544 lbs.	Prem	... 2 „
Soya flour	... 51 „	Lamb's tongues...	1 „
Bacon	...42½ „	Stewed steak	... 24 „
Ham	... 37 „	Party loaf	... 5 „
Spaghetti	... 53 „	Brisket	... 1 „
Batter flour	...110 „	Soup	... 7 „
Biscuits	... 15 „	Cocoa	... 3 „
White beans	... 16 „	Vegetables	... 9 „
Figs	... 34 „	Prepared meal	... 1 „
Confectionery	... 40 „	Shrimps	... 2 „
Jam	...572 „	Baked beans	... 27 „
Sugar	... 6 „	Sardines	... 4 „
Tea	... 4 „	Salmon	... 13 „
Butter	... 3½ „	Pilchards	... 99 „
Vermicilli	... 7 „	Herrings	... 14 „
Prunes	... 4 „	Plums	... 23 „
Apple rings	... 1 „	Pears	... 3 „
Eggs	... 86	Apricots	... 2 „
Pickles	... 2 jars	Prunes	... 26 „
Pudding mixture	2 pkts.	Peas	... 9 „
Evaporated milk	27 tins	Condensed milk...	4 „

The total number of tins included in the above is 372. Much of the increase in the amount of food condemned was due to damage by enemy action.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.

Notifiable Diseases.

The following table shows details of diseases notified during the year:—

	Cases admitted		Deaths.
	Cases notified	to Hospital.	
Scarlet Fever	... 22	12	—
Diphtheria ...	... 2	2	1
Pneumonia ...	... 44	4	13
Measles ...	... 14	—	—
Whooping Cough	... 172	—	1
Erysipelas ...	... 9	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	4	—	—
Dysentery (Sonne) ...	23	—	—
Malaria ...	... 1	—	—
Poliomyelitis	... 1	1	—

During the year there were 2 cases of Diphtheria —1 child and 1 adult, neither of whom had been immunised. The death was that of the adult.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Immunisation of children was carried out at clinics held at Halsey Hall, Waltham Cross, and at schools.

Immunisation of children from 1 to 5 years of age was carried out at the Infant Welfare Clinic, Waltham Cross.

The number of immunisations carried out during the year together with the figures for 1943 are given in the following table :—

	Under 5 years		Over 5 and under 15	
	1943	1944	1943	1944
No. of children w h o received full course ...	231	192	137	66
Percentage of child population who have recei- ved full course	39.28%	43.49%	68.32%	74.55%

Arrangements exist for Medical Practitioners to carry out immunisation privately, free of charge to the patient. The number treated under this scheme during the year was 37.

Ministry of Information and local authority combined advertisements in the local press, were again used for publicity purposes.

Tuberculosis.

The number of cases of tuberculosis reported during the year was 22. The death rate from tuberculosis is .32 per 1,000 of the population.

Age Period	NEW CASES			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
5—15	—	1	1	1
15—25	1	2	1	—
25—35	1	1	1	—
35—45	4	1	1	1
45—55	1	—	—	1
55—65	1	—	—	1
65 & upwards	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	9	5	4	4

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Sonne Dysentery.

At the beginning of the winter there was a small epidemic of Sonne Dysentery in the Cheshunt Wash area.

This mild form of dysentery may be spread by carriers handling food for consumption uncooked, or by contact with contaminated water courses, or by flies.

By its geographical and age distribution the first seemed the most probable method of spread in this epidemic, and efforts were made to discover a carrier by examining excreta from persons working in premises in which food is offered for sale in the affected area. All such examinations proved negative.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
MANOR HOUSE,
CHESHUNT, HERTS.

September, 1945

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1944.

(Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

			England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resi- dent Popula- tions 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census)	London Adminis- trative County	Cheshunt
Rates per 1,000 civilian population :—							
Births :							
Live	...	...	17.6	20.3	20.9	15.0	19.95
Still	...	...	0.50	0.64	0.61	0.42	0.48
Deaths :							
All Causes	...	...	11.6	13.7	12.4	15.7	11.18
Typhoid and Para-typhoid	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	...	...	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.04	0.05
Diphtheria	...	...	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.01	0.05
Influenza	...	...	0.12	0.10	0.11	0.08	0.17
Smallpox	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	...	...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00

Rates per 1,000 Live Births :—

Deaths under 1 year of age							
age	...	...	46	52	44	61	35
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age							
2 years of age	...	...	4.8	7.3	4.4	10.1	5.4

Rates per 1,000 Civilian population :—

Notifications :							
Typhoid Fever	...	...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.06	0.05
Scarlet Fever	...	...	2.40	2.41	2.67	1.57	1.18
Whooping Cough	...	...	2.49	2.49	2.29	2.90	9.19
Diphtheria	...	...	0.58	0.67	0.69	0.31	0.11
Erysipelas	...	...	0.29	0.32	0.28	0.37	0.46
Smallpox	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles	...	...	4.16	4.51	3.94	2.98	0.75
Pneumonia	...	...	0.97	1.13	0.82	0.93	2.35

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still)

Notifications :

Puerperal Fever ...	10.34	13.13	9.25	3.61	10.47
Puerperal Pyrexia ...				14.14	

Maternal Mortality :

Puerperal Infections	0.28	-----Not available-----	—
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A. WILLIS

PRINTER

WALTHAM CROSS
